GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2505
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2002
RESTRICTIONS ON VISAS
RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Dubai has imposed restrictions on Issuance of new visas to Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with Dubai authorities; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)&(b) The Emirate of Dubai did not impose separate visa restrictions on Indians.Visa Policy is made by the Federal Authority of the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi. The Government is aware of the restriction imposed by the Federal Authority of UAE on issuance of visas to unskilled and semi-skilled workers from India and Pakistan since 1998. However, issuance of worker visas continues on a restricted basis. Visas to Indian nationals for visit and transit are being issued by UAE authorities as in the past on sponsorship basis. This restriction does not apply to recruitment of professionals.

(c) The issue was not discussed with the Dubai authorities, but has come up during discussions with the Federal Authorities from time to time.

(d) The UAE Government`s position is that the restricted recruitment of workers from India and Pakistan is on account of
(i) demographic imbalance caused by the disproportionately large share of Indians and Pakistanis in the expatriate population;
(ii) to mop up any excess supply of labour in UAE; and
(iii) Emiratisation i.e. replacement of expatriates by nationals for managerial positions and white-collared jobs in banks, financial institutions, Government departments etc. The UAE Government has clarified that recruitment is still being cleared from India on a case by case basis.